

From: June Leung [REDACTED]
To: "panel_hs@legco.gov.hk" <panel_hs@legco.gov.hk>

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Subject: Government's Proposal to Amend Health Warnings on Tobacco Product Packets and Containers

15 March 2017

Chairman, Panel on Health Services
c/o Legislative Council Secretariat

Dear Chairman,

I write to indicate my full support for the Government's proposal to strengthen graphic health warnings on tobacco product packets and retail containers.

Scientific studies have consistently shown the strengthening of graphic health warnings to reduce smoking behaviour (1-3). The World Health Organization recommends the use of prominent graphic health warnings and calls for plain packaging of tobacco products (4). Enlarging the size of graphic health warnings to at least 85% on both surfaces of tobacco product packets is an important step forward.

To protect public health, I strongly urge the Legislative Council to pass the Government's proposed amendments without further delay.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Dr June Leung
Clinical Assistant Professor
School of Public Health
The University of Hong Kong

References:

1. Hammond D. Health warning messages on tobacco products: a review. *Tob Control*. 2011;20(5):327-37.
2. Noar SM, Hall MG, Francis DB, Ribisl KM, Pepper JK, Brewer NT. Pictorial cigarette pack warnings: a meta-analysis of experimental studies. *Tob Control*. 2016;25(3):341-54.
3. Noar SM, Francis DB, Bridges C, Sontag JM, Ribisl KM, Brewer NT. The impact of strengthening cigarette pack warnings: Systematic review of longitudinal observational studies. *Soc Sci Med*. 2016;164:118-29.
4. World Health Organization. Guidelines for implementation of Article 11 of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (packaging and labelling of tobacco products). Geneva: World Health Organization, 2008.